

Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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TAGS:ETRD, US, EC

SUBJECT: KINGSTON CONFERENCE BETWEEN EC AND ACP COUNTRIES:
PRESS RELEASE

THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE FOR SUBJECT
CONFERENCE WAS PROVIDED BY EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER
CHEYSSON DURING HIS JULY 29-31 VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

BEGIN PRESS RELEASE

"AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA, A
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN KINGSTON ON 25 AND 26
JULY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 44
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES AND THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

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"THE AIM OF THIS CONFERENCE WAS TO TAKE STOCK OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR A YEAR BETWEEN THE ACP STATES AND THE EEC AND TO GIVE THEM A NEW MONENTUM.

AS STATED BY MR. MICHAEL HANLEY, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA, WHO OPENED THE PROCEEDINGS, THE CONFERENCE THUS OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY OF OPENING THE WAY TO A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. IT WAS INTENDED TO DEFINE THE PRINCIPLES OF A NEW MODEL FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE.

"IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERS THEREFORE CONCENTRATED ON THE MAIN TOPICS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WERE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT JOINT GUIDELINES.

"ONE OF THE MOST SALIENT FEATURES OF THIS INNOVATORY APPROACH IS THE AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES ON THE SETTING UP OF A SYSTEM FOR STABILIZING EARNINGS FROM ACP EXPORTS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS TO THE COMMUNITY. THIS SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMIES OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED OF DROPS IN THE PRICE OR QUANTITY OF THE MAIN PRODUCTS EXPORTED. THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPLYING THIS SYSTEM WILL NOW BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE ACP STATES AND THE COMMUNITY, WHILE THE COMMISSION WILL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN TALKS WITH THE RELEVANT PRODUCER COUNTRIES ON THE VARIOUS PRODUCTS, IN PARTICULAR SUGAR WHICH, IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE.

"THE OTHER ORIGINAL ELEMENT ON WHICH JOINT GUIDELINES WERE ESTABLISHED RELATES TO INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ACP STATES AND THE COMMUNITY.

" THE ACP STATES AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RECOGNIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE WHICH SHOULD BE PLACED ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FUTURE AGREEMENT AND AGREE THAT A SPECIAL CHAPTER OF THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO THIS SUBJECT.

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"THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE MEMORANDUM ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION PRESENTED BY THE ACP COUNTRIES AND CONFIRMS ITS AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL AIMS OF THE MEMORANDUM.

"AS REGARDS TRADE ARRANGEMENTS, THE PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZED THAT THE KEYNOTE SHOULD BE STABILITY AND

RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE IN AN UNEQUAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS THEIR PARTNERS. THE MAIN FEATURE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE FREE ACCESS FOR THE ACP STATES TO THE COMMUNITY MARKET, NO CORRESPONDING COMMITMENTS BEING REQUIRED OF THE ACP STATES. HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF IMPORTANT COMMENTS BY THE ACP COUNTRIES AND EXAMINED BY THE CONFERENCE, VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH MAY HAMPER TRADE IN SOME PRODUCTS WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED AGAIN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS: THESE ARE RULES OF ORIGIN, AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

"THE CONFERENCE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS MADE ON FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS. AN INITIAL DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE AMOUNT OF AID TO BE GRANTED BY THE COMMUNITY TO THE ACP STATES; THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE CONTINUED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

"IT WAS AGREED THAT THE INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE WOULD BE EXAMINED AT THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

" HAVING AGREED ON THESE NEW PRINCIPLES, THE MINISTERS CONSIDER THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOW BE RESUMED AT A FASTER PACE PLENIPOTENTIARIES' LEVEL IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION IN GOOD TIME. THIS MEANS THAT THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER AT THE LATEST." END PRESS RELEASE. KISSINGER

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